

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 SCS-03 SCA-01

OC-06 CCO-00 NEA-10 PPT-02 CU-04 AID-20 EUR-25 PC-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, UG

SUBJECT: PRESS EDITORIAL ON AMIN'S THREAT TO AMCITS IN
UGANDA

REF: KAMPALA 3023

1. OCT. 15 WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS CARRIED FOLLOWING
EDITORIAL ENTITLED QTE AFRICAN MADNESS UNQTE.

2. QTE: IT WOULD SEEM HARD TO TOP THE RIDICULOUS HEIGHTS
OF PRESIDENT AMIN'S PAST PERFORMANCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL
SCENE. BUT AMIN HIMSELF MANAGED TO DO SO LAST WEEK.

"THE UGANDAN LEADER THREATENED TO JAIL ALL AMERICANS
HE CAN GET HIS HANDS ON IF THIS COUNTRY INTERVENES ON THE
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SIDE OF ISRAEL IN THE MIDEAST WAR. IT CAN BE LITTLE

COMFORT TO THE 500 OR SO AMERICANS IN UGANDA - DIPLOMATS, BUSINESSMEN, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS - THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND TO ENTER THE FIGHTING. AMIN ALREADY SUSPECTS THAT WE ARE FLYING MISSIONS AGAINST EGYPT, AND THE GENERAL IS NOT ONE TO LET FACTS INTERFERE WITH A ZANY IMPULSE.

"AMIN IS MOST FAMOUS FOR HIS RACIST EXPULSION OF ASIANS WHO HAD LIVED FOR GENERATIONS IN UGANDA. HE ALSO IS KNOWN FOR GRATUITOUS INTERNATIONAL INSULTS, INCLUDING MOCK COMMISERATION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON OVER THE WATERGATE TROUBLE. BUT MOST RELEVANT TO AMIN'S CURRENT THREAT WAS HIS DETENTION OF A PLANELOAD OF PEACE CORPS WORKERS IN TRANSIT TO OTHER POINTS IN AFRICA, ON SUSPICION THEY WERE "MERCENARIES." SUCH ANTICS HURT THE IMAGE OF INDEPENDENT BLACK AFRICA, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES A NUMBER OF DECENT GOVERNMENTS.

"AT THE MOMENT THERE IS NO AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA, AND OUR DIPLOMACY THERE IS IN THE HANDS OF A HAPLESS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES. THE PEACE CORPS NO LONGER OPERATES THERE. AFTER AMIN'S THREAT IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER WE SHOULD MAINTAIN EVEN MINIMAL OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION IN UGANDA.

"AS FOR OTHER AMERICANS UNDER AMIN'S JURISDICTION, THEY WOULD DO WELL TO SEEK MORE HOSPITABLE SURROUNDINGS, WHERE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AT LEAST IS RATIONAL." UNQTE.

3. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. KISSINGER

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